

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
HIROAKI MURASE, ET AL.

Confirmation Number: 6561

Application No.: **10/501,890**

Group Art Unit: 1621

Filed: July 20, 2004

Examiner: GALE, Kellette

Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING FLUORENE DERIVATIVE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 29, 2008, the date for responding by August 29, 2008, reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3, 9, 11, and 14-20 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 9 and 20 are independent claims.

Prior Art Rejections:

Applicants' claims recite, *inter alia*, using a mercaptocarboxylic acid in combination with a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution in a larger amount compared to the conventional amount of the catalyst. Applicants' claims further recite, *inter alia*, using hydrochloric acid of 0.1 to 3 times by weight (in terms of hydrogen chloride) relative to the mercaptocarboxylic acid, and additionally using the mercaptocarboxylic acid in a proportion of larger amount than the conventional catalyst amount relative to fluorenone.

Takahashi discloses "a method for producing a bisphenol, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenol to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a catalyst, adding a